

America. I have recently written to Ambassador Zoellick on this topic, along with Senators BAUCUS, BINGAMAN, and JEFFORDS. We expressed concern that the labor rights situation in a number of the Central American countries presents concerns of a significant degree different from those underlying the negotiations of the United States-Singapore and United States-Chile FTAs and urged that the CAFTA negotiations ought not be tied to previously negotiated agreements.

I will monitor progress of future trade negotiations closely and fully expect to see substantial progress in several areas. In particular, the inclusion of basic worker protections, as well as strong monitoring and enforcement provisions, are necessary to meet the challenges of an inclusive and progressive trade policy. •

COMMENDING CHARLES E. "CHUCK" FRANK

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to offer praise of Charles E. "Chuck" Frank of Chicago, IL, for his ongoing efforts to improve our environment. Mr. Frank's stance on environmental issues deserves particular commendation because in addition to being an active supporter of the environment, he is in the business of selling cars and trucks at one of the Chicago area's largest car dealerships, which was founded by his legendary father, "Z" Frank.

Mr. Frank's love for the outdoors started in the early years of his life when he spent hours camping, fishing, and pursuing other activities immersed in nature. His love and respect for the environment did not stop with childhood. Mr. Frank has made a personal and professional commitment to protect the environment that he so loved to ensure that future generations will be able to experience the same natural wonders that he was able to. This commitment led Mr. Frank to join the Sierra Club in 1975, and now he is a lifetime member and Vice President of the Sierra Club Foundation.

Mr. Frank has demonstrated his commitment to the environment he loves by working with the Sierra Club to secure a significant increase in the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards. Offering a unique perspective from inside the automobile industry, he believes the current CAFE standards of 27.5 miles per gallon for cars and 20.7 miles per gallon for trucks are standards the fail to meet consumers' demands both for more cost-effective vehicles and solutions to the worsening problems of air pollution and global warming. He believes the technology in his industry can surpass the current standards, and believes that an increase to 40 miles per gallon for cars and 27.5 miles per gallon for trucks is entirely possible. Mr. Frank strongly advocates increasing the CAFE standards to these proposed levels to ensure stronger customer satisfaction and improved environmental conditions.

Mr. Frank has termed his business, "The Country's #1 Conscientious Chevy

Dealer." In Mr. Frank's case, this slogan goes beyond simple rhetoric and is absolutely true of his approach to his business. Mr. Frank believes so strongly in the need for an increase in the CAFE that he has pledged part of his business profits to the Sierra Club Clean Air Campaign. He is currently running advertisements in the Chicago area that detail the need for a raise in the CAFE standards and offer consumers an opportunity to have Mr. Frank's car dealership donate \$200 to the Sierra Club for each car or truck sold. I commend Mr. Frank for demonstrating that issues that affect our Nation's public health and environment are just as important as the bottom line.

The tireless work that Chuck Frank has done as a champion of the environment and as a manager in the automobile industry should be an inspiration for us all to enact legislation to raise the CAFE standards. Mr. Frank's unique position demonstrates that business and environmental issues can go hand-in-hand. I thank Chuck Frank for his unwavering support for consumers of this country and the environment, and I am confident that his work will help move us toward the increase in CAFE standards that is so needed in this country. •

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SAFETY ACT

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for S. 253, the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act. This groundbreaking legislation will enable law enforcement officers to protect themselves and our communities, wherever they are, whenever they are needed. This legislation authorizes off-duty and qualified retired officers to carry a firearm anywhere in the Nation to help ensure the safety and well-being of law abiding citizens. While I strongly support this goal, I hope that amendments on the Senator floor will add additional common sense restrictions to the bill.

Today, the authority of off-duty police officer to carry concealed weapons varies widely from State to State. This complex patchwork of Federal, State and local laws places an undue and unnecessary limitation on professionals sworn to defend the public interest. The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act would allow active law enforcement officers to carry their weapons while traveling outside their own jurisdiction, anywhere in the country. However, the bill also preserves State laws that restrict the carrying of concealed weapons on private or government property.

Although we need to supplement the nationwide effort to increase security, it is critical that enactment of such legislation be limited to current licensed professionals. This new authority to carry concealed firearms should complement existing duty of police of-

ficers to protect their communities however, it must also provide clear channels of accountability.

I hope that the Senate will consider including the following common sense restrictions to improve this legislation for our officers and our citizens. First, we should limit this new authority to currently employed law enforcement officers. This will allow for reliable oversight by State and local authorities. We should also restrict the off-duty officer's firearm selection to handguns. This will reduce the potential for abuse and the unnecessary violence that high powered weapons may induce. We should also prevent off-duty officers from carrying weapons in places where alcohol is served. Clearly, guns and alcohol are a deadly combination, even in the hands of trained professionals.

Finally, even as we take comfort in the greater protection this legislation will provide, we must not lose sight of the fact that there is no substitute for a uniformed, on-duty police officer. The reluctance of the administration to provide adequate State fiscal relief has forced many police departments to downsize their police forces at a time when they have never been in greater demand. In addition, the inadequate funding of First Responders within the Homeland Security Department puts even greater strain on police departments and threatens our national security. Furthermore, the decision by Congress and this administration to deny level funding for the successful Community Oriented Policing program is a betrayal of the very communities that the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act is designed to protect. Though there is much to be gained by supplementing community security with armed and trained citizens, there is also much to be lost by law enforcement entities are not fully funded.

I intend to support the Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act. It is my hope that this is only the first step to giving those responsible for our protection the tools and resources that are necessary to uphold their oath. •

TRIBUTE TO ANNE MARIE PEDERSON

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute to one of Kentucky's most benevolent humanitarians. Ann Marie Pederson, a graduate student at the University of Louisville, volunteers in the English-as-a-second-language, ESL, program through Kentucky Refugee Ministries. Through this program, Anne Marie works with refugees from over 25 different nationalities and ethnic groups throughout Kentucky.

Kentucky Refugee Ministries is a refugee resettlement office for the Episcopal Migration Ministries and Church World Service. The organization assists refugees legally admitted to the United States as victims of persecution for religious or political belief. Anne Marie

became involved with Kentucky Refugee Ministries after volunteering with a similar program in Jordan in 2000. Anne Marie, a rhetorician and composition graduate student at the University of Louisville, also obtained a master's degree in creative writing from George Mason University. Remarkably, English is her only language.

In one of her assignments, Anne Marie assisted a Bosnian family in accomplishing basic daily activities like shopping, driving, and setting up bank accounts. She also taught English conversation skills to two sisters from a Congolese refugee camp. Anne Marie is a mentor to refugee children from Kosovo, Mexico, and Jordan, serving as both a friend and a teacher.

Her generosity and kindness has improved the lives of refugees in countless ways. Her patience, instruction, and friendship is an example for us all. Anne Marie Pederson is an exemplar of charity and a tribute to Kentucky. I thank the Senator for allowing me to recognize Anne Marie Pederson and voice her praises. She is Kentucky at its best.●

IN REMEMBRANCE OF R. HUGH BRADY

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, it is never easy to say good-bye to a long-time friend, and it is even tougher when a community has to mourn the loss of a true humanitarian. Last Thursday, one of the most charitable men I have ever had the pleasure of knowing passed away at the age of 74 after a courageous battle with cancer.

His name was Hugh Brady and for many children in Idaho, he was the man who made sure they had the necessary sporting equipment to participate in the games they loved. In 1954, Hugh was hired as a salesman for Idaho Sporting Goods in Boise and traveled all over a three-State area providing uniforms and equipment to schools that needed it, especially those in the more rural areas. He became sole owner of Idaho Sporting Goods in 1969 and over the years sponsored thousands of children and teams in all types of sports.

On August 6, Hugh will be inducted into Idaho High School Activities Association Hall of Fame for his kind-hearted efforts off the field and his immense support for any child who had a desire to play no matter their ability. He wanted so badly to attend the ceremony, but it was not meant to be. Instead it will be a time to celebrate his wonderful life and reflect upon how one man was able to touch so many lives for the better.

Hugh lived by a simple rule he picked up from a used car salesman many years ago, and it served him well: Be honest to your wife, your banker and your customers. He expected honesty from his employees and to this day Idaho Sporting Goods is one of the most trusted businesses in Idaho.

I would like to pass along my heartfelt condolences to Hugh's family.

Cherle, his wife of 52 years, and their 11 children are regulars around the Boise sports scene. Whether in the stands or on the field, the Brady's prove great ambassadors for athletics. His 33 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren carry on their tradition today. We will miss you, Hugh, but we will never forget all you gave so that others could play.●

PEACHES FROM SOUTH CAROLINA FARMERS

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, today, 10,000 fresh, juicy peaches from my home State have been delivered to offices throughout the Senate, House, and U.S. Capitol. I want to thank the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation and the South Carolina Peach Council for giving my colleagues and their staffs this taste of South Carolina.

For a tiny State, South Carolina is second only to California in peach production. This year we expect to harvest 130 million pounds, and because of all the rain the peaches are plumper and juicier than they have ever been. So with all due respect to my colleagues from Georgia, South Carolina is known as the "Tastier Peach State" for good reason.

I hope as all of us enjoy these peaches, we think about the farmers who get up early every morning and labor all summer in the heat and humidity to bring us this. We are so fortunate to have in this country safe, plentiful, and affordable fresh fruit and vegetables and none of us should ever take that for granted.

Finally, I remind the rest of America to ask for South Carolina peaches at their groceries.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

LEGISLATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE UNITED STATES-SINGAPORE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—PM 44

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The Agreement will further open Singapore's markets and increase competition and consumer choice. This is America's first FTA with an Asian-Pacific nation, and we hope it will serve as a benchmark for future free trade agreements with other nations in the region. The Agreement will enhance prosperity in the United States and Singapore, serve the interest of expanding U.S. commerce, and advance our overall national interest.

My Administration is strongly committed to securing a level playing field for America's workers, farmers, and businesses. The Congress helped advance that policy by passing Trade Promotion Authority in the Trade Act of 2002 (the "Trade Act"). The Congress can help us take another important step by approving this Agreement and the implementing legislation. Without this Agreement, U.S. workers and businesses could be placed at a competitive disadvantage, because Singapore has signed or is currently working on free trade agreements with Japan, Canada, Australia, Mexico, and India.

In negotiating this FTA, my Administration was guided by the negotiating objectives set out in the Trade Act. The Agreement locks in tariff-free access for all U.S. goods, including textile and agriculture products, and addresses other barriers to trade. It opens opportunities for our services businesses, which now account for nearly 65 percent of our gross domestic product and more than 80 percent of employment in the United States. Through this FTA, Singapore will grant substantial additional market access to U.S. firms across a broad spectrum of services, including banking, insurance, securities and related financial services, express delivery services, professional services, and telecommunications. The Agreement also incorporates commitments on regulatory transparency that will be of special help to services business.

This Agreement provides state-of-the-art intellectual property protection, including significant commitments on trade in digital products. It ensures that electronic commerce will stay free of duties and discriminatory rules. In addition, Singapore will accede to international treaties dealing with copyright and access issues for the Internet.

United States citizens and businesses that invest in Singapore will have significant increased protections. This Agreement enhances transparency and openness in order to foster a more secure environment for trade and investment. Furthermore, Singapore will provide U.S. investors with important substantive protections that Singaporean investors already enjoy in the United States.

Singapore and the United States have also agreed to cooperate on the